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The Story of the American Merchant Marine. By JOHN R. SPEARS. New York: Macmillan, 1910. 8vo, pp. vii+340. \$1.50 net.

The author brings to the task of writing this book a very considerable acquaintance with the literature of the subject. At the same time his primary purpose has been to tell a story and it is evident that his chief interest lies in the relating of this tale. The product is a volume rather different in character from any now available. As a result of the author's primary interest in his story he has escaped the common tendency toward one-sided statement and partisan arguments. As a result of his wide reading on the subject there is introduced an unusual amount of detail, some of which is purely entertaining while some throws side lights on various phases of the history of our merchant marine. It is this latter side of the book which will be of chief interest to the economist, for the book as a whole can hardly be accepted as a carefully worked-out economic study. There are too many gaps in the account: thus the tonnage acts of 1789 are hardly mentioned, causal relations are not examined with care, the influence of our foreign commerce is inadequately covered, and there is little attempt to connect events with the general economic development of the country. Where the writer enters upon the controverted subject of the revival of our merchant marine he is generally sound and he brings out several points usually unnoticed, but also neglects some rather important phases of the problem. This is stated to indicate what the book contains rather than as a criticism since the book evidently is intended not for the economist but for the general reader. For the latter it will prove a somewhat incomplete, but interesting, generally sound, and distinctly serviceable account of our merchant marine.

A Brief History of Forestry in Europe, the United States, and Other Countries. By BERNHARD E. FERNOW. Toronto: University Press, 1910. 8vo, pp. x+438. \$2.50.

The author has now added to his book covering the history of forestry in the leading nations of the world a chapter of about fifty pages on its history in the United States and the insular possessions. Naturally the account is far from exhaustive, but it must be admitted that the history of forestry in this country is a subject which offers little opportunity for extended treatment. No attempt to give any history of the lumber industry is made, and the chapter devoted to the United States becomes, in fact, a record of the movement for the conservation of our forest resources. For those desiring a brief but comprehensive survey of this movement it is excellent.

The calling of attention to the need for conservation is, as is here brought out, by no means a recent move. From the time in 1682 when William Penn stipulated that for every five acres cleared one acre was to be reserved for forest growth by those who took title from him there have not been lacking men who foresaw the present need. In the last of the eighteenth and the first of the nineteenth centuries the scarcity of fuel-wood, due to the fact that so much had been cut along the river banks and wherever transportation facilities

were available, attracted further attention to the subject. But the opening of the West and the introduction of improved means of transportation so increased the supply of lumber available that, in spite of the occasional warnings of some far-sighted individuals, almost nothing was attempted until about 1870. Even then little was actually accomplished, and it was not until both state and federal authorities took hold with vigor and science was substituted for politics—that is within the last decade or two—that substantial and encouraging results were obtained.

Principles of Political Economy. By JOHN STUART MILL. Edited by W. J. ASHLEY. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1909. 8vo, pp. liii+1013. 5s.

The editor's introduction is mainly given over to a thoughtful analysis of the influence which shaped Mill's thought and writings. It is to be regretted that there was not a more serious attempt to estimate Mill's position and influence in the history of economic thought. The text used here is that of the seventh edition, the last revised by Mill. The most important feature of this edition is the inclusion of notes indicating "all the significant changes or additions made by Mill in the course of the six editions revised by himself." The editor has also furnished occasional notes explanatory of the text and an appendix which includes Mill's latter views on the Wages Fund and Socialism besides a useful series of references to the chief writers who have dealt with the main topics of Mill's treatise since his time. The type is clear, the price is low, and altogether this affords the best and most serviceable edition of Mill available.

Labor in Portuguese West Africa. By WILLIAM A. CADBURY. 2d ed., with an added chapter. London: George Routledge & Sons, Ltd.; New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1910. 12mo, pp. xii+187.

In 1905 the three chief cocoa firms of England and a leading German firm sent two gentlemen to investigate the conditions of indentured labor in the cocoa industry on the Portuguese islands of S. Thomé and Principe and the method by which that labor was recruited in Angola. Two years were spent in the investigation and a system of virtual slavery was found to exist. In 1907 the Portuguese government promised reform within a year, but when another visit was made to the islands last year it was found that nothing had been done. The present volume presents the results of the investigation. In the hinterland of Angola irresponsible Europeans and their native recruiting agents have been concerned in the gravest abuses; there prevails a form of contract which in practice fails to safeguard the liberty of the native; there is an excessive mortality among these laborers due to the method of recruiting, the length of the contract, the long hours of work, and the unsanitary and crowded conditions of living; and finally the repatriation laws fail to repatriate. In consequence these firms of cocoa manufacturers have decided not to make any further purchases of cocoa from these islands until reforms are carried out. The effort of